

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated November 2, 2004, the Examiner has objected to the drawings, and rejected Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and rejected Claims 2, 3, 6-8, and 9, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Further, the Examiner has kindly indicated that Claims 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. By this paper, the specification has been revised and Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicants regard as the invention. Further, Claims 2, 5, and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 9 dependent thereon, which are the claims remaining in this Application are now allowable.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include “segment A”. The Specification has been amended herein to change the reference to “segment A” to “area 4a”, clearly shown in FIG. 3 of the drawings. Also the Examiner has objected to “reference part ‘9’ in figure 9”. However, this Application does not have a “reference part 9”, nor does it even have a “figure 9”. Accordingly, the drawings are now respectfully considered to fully comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5), and this objection should now be removed.

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Onishi. The Onishi reference is directed to a fixing roller construction. The Examiner refers to “parts 58 and 59” of Onishi as being the “connection” that “allow for revolving of the housing”. The claims of this Application have been amended to now positively recite a substantially ball-shaped connecting element, for the body and the flanges, that is movable in a rolling motion relative thereto to balance out, in every direction possible, environmentally induced changes in the sizes of the body and the flanges. This is substantially different from the “revolving” action referred to in the Onishi reference, which only accommodates for axial relative rotation of the parts (not relative longitudinal movement). Further, the allowed

subject matter of Claim 5 (now cancelled) has been incorporated into Claim 4. Accordingly, it is now respectfully considered that this rejection is no longer properly applicable, and should now be removed. Therefore, Claims 1 and 4 should now be allowed.

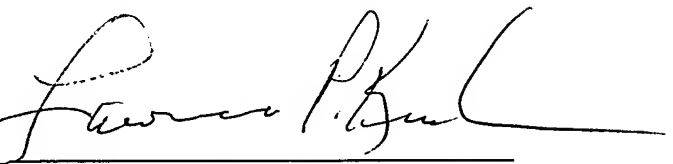
Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of Olmstead; Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of Olmstead, and further in view of Chen; and Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of Suzuli. As discussed immediately above, the reference to Onishi does not have a connection, which enables a rolling motion to balance out, in every direction possible, environmentally induced changes in the sizes of the body and the flanges. This feature provides the benefits of eliminating stresses, and balancing out or avoiding possible warping of the flanges and/or body, due to the fact that the connecting element that is moveable by a rolling motion yields to prevailing forces, the connection adapts to new geometric relationships and the warping energy building up in the area of the connection is minimized. The ball shape for the connection assures that movement of the connecting element within the connection point between the flanges and the body occurs with as little friction as possible. The danger that the connecting element will tilt is decreased, in that it changes its position commensurately. The ball-shaped connecting element at the ends of the roller is advantageously able to balance out, in every direction possible, changes in the sizes of the body and the flanges due to environmental conditions (see page 3 of the Application). This important feature of Applicants' invention is not shown, nor anticipated, by any prior art known to Applicants. As such, this feature cannot be considered as being taught by any of the cited secondary references in proper combination with the Onishi reference. Further, the allowed subject matter of Claim 10 (now cancelled) has been incorporated into Claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3, 6-8, and 9 would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the cited references, in any proper combination, or over any other prior art known to Applicants. Therefore, Claims 3, 6-8, and 9, as amended, should now be allowed.

U.S. Application No. 10/696,190 – Filed: October 28, 2003
Amendment Dated: January 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated: November 2, 2004

Applicants are not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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